

of untreated or partially treated sewage into the nation's waters.

The federal government has been long on regulation and short on financial assistance. The CSO problem was first addressed when Congress revisited the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, better known as the Clean Water Act, almost three decades ago. The subsequent Clean Water Act Amendments of 1972 established the fundamental principles and objectives of a national wastewater management policy. To implement these goals, a national program was created to regulate the discharge of pollutant into surface waters, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, or NPDES. This system required outfalls for industrial process waste and sewage from municipal treatment plants. Individual states were allowed to assume responsibility for the administration of NPDES once their permitting processes were approved by the EPA.

Maine and 37 other states operate EPA-approved NPDES permitting programs. The law requires that state water-quality standards be consistent with federal policy, but, if necessary to achieve the act's objectives, states are allowed to impose water-quality standards more stringent than those required by federal regulations.

Section 10(a)(4) of the CWA Amendments of 1972 explicitly linked the achievement of national water-quality goals to federal financial assistance for municipalities affected by the new mandate by creating the Construction Grants Program (CGP) that provided subsidies for the construction of publicly owned treatment works. In Section 516(b), the EPA was charged with administering the program, and was required to develop biennial estimates of the cost of construction of all needed publicly owned treatment works in each of the States.

In the past, federal funds have paid for as much as 75 percent of the construction costs for water treatment and sewage facilities. In recent years, federal contributions have been limited to low interest loans rather than grants, through a revolving loan fund (SRF), and local ratepayers and taxpayers bear the burden of rehabilitating, upgrading and for operating costs. It is clear that more federal funding assistance is needed so that CSO communities can be given policy and financial tools with which to handle their ongoing CSO problem of sewer overflows into our rivers and bays.

The Smith-Snowe CSO bill amends the Clean Water Act and addresses the problems faced by such CSO cities and towns, 45 in my state alone. The purpose of the bill is to move forward with technology-based controls that are the most cost effective and to make sure communities do not put in controls that are not actually needed. The bill seeks to codify the Environmental Protection Agency's rational approach to CSO control, its "CSO Policy of April, 1994". Codification is necessary since

the implementation of EPA's CSO policy has been inadequate to date.

The bill also provides congressional approval of the inclusion of realistic water quality standards compliance schedules for CSO control in permits and other enforceable documents issued as called for in the 1994 EPA Control Policy.

Initiation of the water quality standards/designated use review and revision process called for in EPA's Control Policy must also occur before requiring long-term CSO control plan implementation. The guidelines that the EPA is currently developing to assist communities for implementing measures for the control of CSOs are only just that, guidelines, and could potentially be changed after a community has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars following them. CSO communities need certainty, not changing guidelines after costly measures have already been taken.

The bill also authorizes federal grant funding assistance for CSO communities to implement long term CSO controls.

The problem of CSOs has been a long standing issue Mr. President, for which I cosponsored similar legislation in the House in the 102nd Congress. The CSO problem is not going to go away, but only become a bigger financial burden for our CSO communities.

I want to thank my colleagues who have agreed to cosponsor the Smith-Snowe CSO bill and urge those not yet cosponsoring to join us in support of this much needed legislation.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:11 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by one of its reading clerks, Mr. Hanrahan, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1569. An act to prohibit the use of funds appropriated to the Department of Defense from being used for the deployment of ground elements of the United States Armed Forces in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia unless that deployment is specifically authorized by law.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-2741. A communication from the Deputy Archivist, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Researcher registration and research room procedures" (RIN3095-AA69), received April 26, 1999; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2742. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation entitled "Federal Employees' Benefits Equity

Act of 1999"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2743. A communication from the Chairman, United States Parole Commission, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report for 1998; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2744. A communication from the Executive Director, Committee for Purchase from People who are Blind or Severely Disabled, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to the procurement list, received April 20, 1999; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2745. A communication from the Executive Director, Committee for Purchase from People who are Blind or Severely Disabled, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to the procurement list, received April 7, 1999; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2746. A communication from the President and Chief Executive Officer, Overseas Private Investment Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual management report for fiscal year 1998; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2747. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report for fiscal years 1997 and 1998; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2748. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "The Sixth Triennial Report to Congress on Drug Abuse and Addiction Research", dated November, 1998; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2749. A communication from the Board Members, United States of America Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation amending the Railroad Retirement Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2750. A communication from the Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a statement of policy entitled "Use of Alternative Dispute Resolution"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2751. A communication from the Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing Benefits" received April 9, 1999; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2752. A communication from the President, United States Institute of Peace, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the audit for fiscal year 1998; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2753. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Labor, transmitting jointly, a draft of proposed amendments to the Older Americans Act of 1965; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2754. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, Division of Regulatory Services, Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Regulation—Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs" (RIN1840-AC59), received April 12, 1999; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2755. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Notice of Final Funding Priorities for Fiscal